

Wide Area Information Servers (WAIS) Bibliography

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Hard copies of the following documents are available. Some documents are available electronically, as stated, but might not contain figures in the ascii version.
Email, fax, mail or phone your name, address and phone number to:
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WAIS Documents

- "Wide Area Information Servers", (overview sheet) Brewster Kahle, Thinking Machines. Also in NSF Network News, Number 11, March 1992. One page overview of the Internet release of WAIS.
Available via anonymous ftp:
/pub/wais/wais-discussion/overview.txt@quake.think.com or
WAIS server wais-discussion-archive.src
- "An Executive Information System for Unstructured Files: Wide Area Information Servers", Brewster Kahle, Harry Morris, Franklin Davis, Kevin Teine, Clare Hart, Robin Palmer. November, 1991. Description of the Peat Marwick experiment, similar to the paper in Online below. Also in Electronic Networking, a Meckler publication, Spring 1992, pp.59-68.
- "Interfaces for Distributed Systems of Information Servers", Brewster Kahle, Harry Morris, Jonathan Goldman (Thinking Machines Corporation), Thomas Erickson (Apple Computer), John Curran (NSF Network Service Center), March, 1992. (formally named "Interfaces for Wide Area Information Servers")
Available via anonymous ftp:
/pub/wais/wais-discussion/Interfaces.txt@quake.think.com
or WAIS server wais-discussion-archives.src
- "An Information System for Corporate Users: Wide Area Information Servers", Brewster Kahle, April, 1991. Thinking Machines technical report TMC-199. Also in ONLINE Magazine August 1991. Report on the system constructed for Peat Marwick and other corporate users. Has screen shots of WAISStation.
Available via anonymous ftp:
/pub/wais/doc/wais-corp.txt@quake.think.com or WAIS server
wais-docs.src
- "WAIS Bibliography", Barbara Lincoln Brooks, Thinking Machines, September, 1992. (This list).
Available via anonymous ftp:
/pub/wais/wais-discussion/bibliography.txt@quake.think.com or
WAIS server wais-discussion-archive.src
- "Wide Area Information Servers Concepts", Brewster Kahle, November, 1989, Thinking Machines technical report TMC-202. Early draft of paper outlining how a Wide Area Information System could grow.
Available via anonymous ftp:
/pub/wais/doc/wais-concepts.txt@quake.think.com or WAIS
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- "Wide Area Information Servers: A SuperComputer on Every Desk", Brewster Kahle, Thinking Machines, August 1991. This is a set of overview presentation slides for WAIS.
- "WAISStation, A User Interface for WAIS", February 1991, Thinking Machines technical report TMC-203.
User interface documentation with screen shots.

Available via anonymous ftp:
/pub/wais/doc/waistation_users_guide.txt@quake.think.com or WAIS
server wais-docs.src

WAIS-related articles/publications

- "The Promise of the WAIS Protocol", UNIX Today!, Jason Levitt,
December 9, 1991, pp.44, 47-48.
Article describing the freeware release.
- "For the PC User, Vast Libraries", New York Times, John Markoff,
July 3, 1991, pg C1.
Overview of WAIS Internet experiment.
- "WAIS: The Wide Area Information Server or Anonymous What???", Peter
Marshall, June 18, 1992.
Describes and details the implementation of WAIS at the University of
Western Ontario.
Available via anonymous ftp:
/pub/wais/doc/UWO-wais-paper.ps@quake.think.com
- "Personal Computing: Collective Dynabases", Communications of the ACM,
Larry Press, June 1992, pg. 26-32.
Overview of WAIS and commercial projects.
- "WAIS: Wide Area Information Servers", Information Intelligence Inc.,
George S. Machovec, March 1992, pg.1-5.
Overview of WAIS from a librarian perspective.
Available via anonymous ftp:
/pub/wais/wais-discussion/iii.txt@quake.think.com
- "WAIS: Is It the Lotus 1-2-3 of the Internet?", Communications Week, Carl
Malamud, March 16, 1992, pg. 17.
Brief article of WAIS on the Internet.
- "Where There's a Will, There's a WAIS", Digital Media - A Seybold Report,
Denise Caruso, February 17, 1992, pg.5-6.
Article touching on several issues of wais, such as protocol,
client/server relationship, "for pay" servers, and legal issues.
- "The Reading Room", Digital Media - A Seybold Report, Brewster Kahle,
February 17, 1992, pg. 7-8.
Essay on the controversy between private ownership of information and
public access to information.
- "Browsing Through Terabytes", Byte Magazine, Richard Stein, May
1991, pp157-164.
Readable article on what a large WAIS system looks like.
- "WAIS Promises Easy Text Retrieval", MacWeek, Henry Norr, May
14, 1991, pg22.
Report on the Peat Marwick WAIS system.
- "Release 1.0", Esther Dyson, April 1991, entire issue.
In-depth article on commercial systems and protocols, featuring
WAIS. (Hardcopy copies available from: EDventure Holdings, 375 Park
Ave., New York, NY 10152; (212) 758-3434)
Anonymous FTP: /pub/wais/wais-discussion/issue-8.text@quake.think.com
WAIS server: wais-discussion-archives.src
- "The Global Village Starts with WAIS", Tomaso Poggio, December 1991,
Overview of WAIS in Italian.
- "Network to Unite Data Bases", San Jose Mercury News, John
Markoff, July 21, 1991, page 1F.
Rewriting of the "For the PC User, Vast Libraries," New York Times
article with emphasis on Apple component.
- "A Comparison of Internet Resource Discovery Approaches", M. Schwartz,
A. Emtage, B. Kahle, B.C. Neuman, August 1992. Paper to appear in
Computing Systems 5(4), 1992.

In-Depth overview and comparison of current Internet information systems.
Postscript copy available via anonymous ftp:
/pub/wais/doc/RD.Comparison.ps@quake.think.com

- "WAIS: A New Development in Information Services", MIT I/S newsletter, T. MacRae and S. Jones, Summer, 1992.
Overview of WAIS by the Network Services and Publication Services at MIT.
Available via anonymous ftp:
/pub/wais/doc/MIT.is.news@quake.think.com

- "Designing a Desktop Information System: Observations and Issues", Thomas Erickson & Gitta Salomon. Human Factors in Computing Systems, CHI '91 Conference Proceedings (pp. 49-54) April 1991, New Orleans. New York: ACM, 1991.
Early paper on the Apple interface for WAIS.

- "Z39.50-1988: Information Retrieval Service Definition and Protocol Specification for Library Applications". National Information Standards Organization (Z39), P.O. Box 1056, Bethesda, MD 20817. (301) 975-2814. Available from Document Center, Belmont, CA. Telephone 415-591-7600.

- "Z39.50-1992 Version 2 Final Text", July 1992. Working copy of the latest Z39.50 implementors group.

- "Z39.50-1991 Version 2", May 1991. Electronic version of the working copy of the Z39.50 implementors group. Anonymous FTP:
/pub/wais/doc/z3950-spec.txt@quake.think.com or WAIS server wais-docs.

- "The Z39.50 Information Retrieval Protocol: An Overview and Status Report", Clifford Lynch, Computer Communication Review ACM SIGCOMM Introduction to the the protocol of WAIS.

- "WAIS Interface Protocol, Prototype Functional Specification", April 1990. Our Changes to the Z39.50-1988 specification. Anonymous FTP:
/pub/wais/doc/protspec.txt@quake.think.com or WAIS server wais-docs.

Thinking Machines Technical Reports

- "Parallel Free-Text Search on the Connection Machine System", C. Stanfill and B. Kahle, 1986. Thinking Machines technical report TMC-72. Communications of the ACM, Volume 29, Number 12, December 1986. How a signature system can be used on a parallel machine.

- "Massively Parallel Information Retrieval for Wide Area Information Servers", C. Stanfill, Thinking Machines, October, 1991. Paper presented at the IEEE International Conference on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics. Charlottesville, Virginia.
Technical paper on Connection Machine servers on the WAIS system.
Postscript copy available via anonymous ftp:
/pub/wais/doc/cm-servers.ps@quake.think.com or WAIS server wais-docs.

- "A Parallel Indexed Algorithm for Information Retrieval", C. Stanfill, R. Thau, December 1990. Thinking Machines technical report TMC-67. Appeared in Proceedings of the 12th International Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval SIGIR-89.

- "Extracting Content Bearing Terms in Parallel on the Connection Machine", S. Smith, 1987. Thinking Machines technical report TMC-71. Submitted to ACL.

- "Very Large Database Applications of the Connection Machine System", D. Waltz, C. Stanfill, S. Smith, R. Thau, 1987. Thinking Machines technical report TMC-70. Appeared in AFIPS/1987 NCC Proceedings, July 1987.

- "Parallel Computing for Information Retrieval: Recent Developments", C. Stanfill, January, 1988. Thinking Machines technical report TMC-69.

- "An Analysis of the Effects of Data Corruption on Text Retrieval Performance", S. Smith, C. Stanfill, December 1988. Thinking Machines technical report TMC-68.

- "Information Retrieval on the Connection Machine: 1 to 8192 Gigabytes", C. Stanfill, R. Thau, December 1990. Thinking Machines technical report TMC-66. To appear in Information Processing and Management, 1991.

- "WAISStation, A User Interface for WAIS", February 1991, Thinking Machines technical report TMC-203.
User interface documentation with screen shots.
Available via anonymous ftp:
/pub/wais/doc/waistation_users_guide.txt@quake.think.com or WAIS server wais-docs.src

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Available via anonymous ftp:
/pub/wais/doc/wais-corp.txt@quake.think.com or WAIS server wais-docs.src

- "Wide Area Information Servers Concepts", Brewster Kahle, November, 1989, Thinking Machines technical report TMC-202.
Early draft of paper outlining how a Wide Area Information System could grow.
Available via anonymous ftp:
/pub/wais/doc/wais-concepts.txt@quake.think.com or WAIS server wais-docs.src

Electronic Services

- wais-discussion@think.com: Weekly digest of mail from users and developers on Electronic Publishing (includes all wais-interest postings).
Requests to wais-discussion-request@think.com.
Anonymous FTP access to archives:
/pub/wais/wais-discussion/issue-*@quake.think.com

- wais-interest@think.com: Infrequent announcements of internet releases.
Requests to wais-interest-request@think.com.
Anonymous ftp access to archives:
/pub/wais/wais-interest/internet-*@quake.think.com

- wais-talk@think.com: interactive list of developers. A couple notes a day. Requests to wais-talk-request@think.com. Archives are available on WAIS server wais-talk-archives.src

- comp.infosystems.wais: a netnews discussion group on WAIS issues. All postings to wais-discussion@Think.COM go to that group as well.

- Z3950iw: Z39.50 Implementors list for low level discussions of protocol details. Requests to LISTSERV@NERVM.NERDC.UFL.EDU

- WAIS Unix Release: Freeware release of client code (X and gnu-emacs), protocol code, and server code for accessing existing servers or starting new servers.
Available via anonymous FTP: /wais/wais-8-*.tar.Z@think.com

Not by Thinking Machines:

NeXT release: /wais/WAISStation-NeXT-*.tar.Z@think.com
Telnet access: telnet quake.think.com login wais, password user@host
DOS: /pub/wais/UNC/DOS/*@wais.oit.unc.edu or
/pub/tcpip/pcwais.zip@hilbert.wharton.upenn.edu
WINDOWS: /pub/wais/UNC/Windows/*@wais.oit.unc.edu
Motif: /public/wais/motif-*.tar.Z@think.com
SunView: /pub/wais/sunsearch.src.*.tar.Z@wais.oit.unc.edu
VMS: /pub/wais/UNC/vms-*@wais.oit.unc.edu
AVS: /DATA/awais/*@avs.ncsc.org

- WAISStation Macintosh program: Freeware client program for accessing servers over tcp/ip. See WAISStation documentation above (included in the release).

Available via anonymous FTP:
/wais/WAStation-0-*.sit.hqx@think.com

- Macintosh demonstration screen-movie: Steve Cisler put together a short
screen-recorder movie for seeing some of what WAStation does.

Available via anonymous FTP:
/wais/WAStation-Canned-Demo.sit.hqx@think.com